

## **UC NEWS BRIEF:**

### **SACRAMENTO HEARING ON UC LAB ISSUES**

On Tuesday, March 11, a California State Senate committee held a joint hearing with members of the New Mexico Legislature regarding the national laboratories managed by the University of California for the federal government. The hearing partly focused on the recent issues regarding business and administrative practices at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. It also explored the critical scientific and technological work conducted at the Los Alamos, Livermore and Berkeley laboratories.

UC President Richard C. Atkinson told the committee that the University is committed to taking all necessary steps to restore the confidence of the Legislature, the Congress, the Department of Energy, and the public in UC's management of the Los Alamos laboratory, which he described as "a vital national resource." Atkinson summarized the many management changes UC has made at LANL.

In addition, Atkinson emphasized the quality of the scientific and technical work being done at the UC-managed national laboratories – which is particularly important now given current world events – and the integrity and dedication of the laboratories' employees.

"At Los Alamos, we have a 60-year history of outstanding science and successful partnership with the federal government," Atkinson said. "At all three laboratories, we have thousands of honest and hardworking scientists, engineers, technicians, and support personnel who are making a major contribution to our nation's security."

Among the others testifying were UC Senior Vice President Bruce Darling, LLNL Director Michael Anastasio, LANL Interim Director Pete Nanos, LBNL Director Charles Shank, UC San Diego Chancellor Robert Dynes, and several faculty and staff members from the laboratories and campuses of the UC system.

The laboratory directors pointed to contributions each facility and their staffs are making to the cause of homeland security and stressed the importance of the relationship between the laboratories and the University. A series of exhibits outside the hearing room showcased the laboratories' work in the area of homeland security.

The California and New Mexico legislators expressed support for UC and the reforms being implemented at Los Alamos. They asked a range of questions, mainly on management responses to employee concerns at the laboratories. In response, the directors noted that all three laboratories offer independently operated hotlines for the reporting of suspected improprieties and other matters and told of their personal efforts to encourage open communication with employees. The directors and Darling reiterated their commitment to respond to all new issues and information from employees and other sources.

On Wednesday, March 12, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations will hold the second of its hearings in

Washington, D.C. on Los Alamos business and administrative practices. Several current and former LANL employees are scheduled to testify, as is Darling.

More information about laboratory issues is available at  
<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/losalamos/>.

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